

Information:

2004/2005 Pig Hunting

Lake Sonoma

- All hunters check in at the visitor center by filling out a hunter information card located at the self-registration area of the visitor center. Hunters turn in one-half on entering and one-half on checking out.
- Hunting will take place ½ hour before Sunrise to ½ hour after Sunset in October. Week long hunting will begin November 1st and will conclude at the end of March.
- Hunting will not occur on Holidays or two days before DFG has special “draw” hunts scheduled.
- Archery and the use of Crossbow will be the only permitted method for taking pigs.
- Pigs will be the only species hunted.
- Dogs may not be used for hunting.
- Hunters will be required to display a valid hunting license on their person and have pig tags with them while at the project.
- All hunters must comply with California Department of Fish & Game regulations.
- Hunting will be restricted to areas shown on the map posted in front of the Visitor center.
- Hunting maps, check in procedures and park hunting rules and regulations will be posted on all park information kiosks, parking lots and/or trailheads.
Hunters cannot have any firearm in their possession while at the project.

Commonly asked questions:

Where are the pigs?

A: Hunters seem to have the greatest success at the end of the lake and the more remote shoreline areas near logger’s camp. Other than that, you will just have to do your homework and start scouting.

Can I carry a side arm while hunting?

A: No, you will have to rely on your skill and judgment in making a shot with your bow or cross bow.

Can I use the fire roads and trails in the park?

A: You may hike on any fire road or trail at any time within the park to access hunting grounds. However you may not operate any motorized vehicle on them or use horses after the trails are closed for the rainy season. Also, you may not follow a fire road onto adjacent property.

Why do I have to display my hunting license on my clothing?

A: Simple, It makes you easily identifiable to Park Rangers and Game Wardens as a legitimate hunter. We can see it at a distance and save the trouble of interrupting your hunting. This is especially important because you are hunting in a park that sees many visitors from urban areas. These people are not used to seeing hunters and the license can ease some minds. It's also your chance to be an ambassador of your sport.

Will you open the pig hunts to shotguns or rifles?

A: Probably not. As archers, you have reached the pinnacle of the hunting pyramid. You have chosen the most challenging form of hunting that requires you to know your game extremely well. Usually when hunters reach this stage, they are the most respectful custodians of the land that I have met and are not likely to cause visitor conflicts or violate fish and game laws. Hunting with firearms is much easier and is more likely to attract less experienced hunters who may not be as respectful as bow hunters. They also make noise that can alarm park visitors who are hiking in the same area you are hunting.

Do I have to check in every day?

A: No, you only need to check in on the first day of your hunt. We only ask that you drop your checkout card in a fee vault on the way out of the park so we can keep an accurate tally of how many hunters have participated and what kind of success rate you are having. This doesn't mean that you should only fill out one card for the whole season though.

Finally a special note from the Natural Resource Ranger.

I just want to say thank you to those of you who participated in last year's experimental hunts. The hunting season last year was a big success with only 1 reported case of poaching. That report came from a fellow hunter so I know you guys are policing yourselves. Remember, you are the best eyes and ears that we have in the park. If you see some one poaching, be a good witness, if you have a camera (and I know you all do) take a photo and report the violation ASAP to Fish and Game or the Rangers.

Because of your respect for the park, I have been able to expand both the hunting season as well as the method of taking pigs. Good Work!

P.S. check out the acorn crop growing on the oaks this fall, there are tones of them!

Should give us some fat pigs and probably boost the population for next falls hunts.

See you in the field,

Joel